

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 4, 5, 14, 15, 24 and 25, and amend claims 1, 11 and 21 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for providing co-browsing by users shopping over a computer network, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a network site offering items for sale;

(b) monitoring the browsing patterns of a first user of the network site and of a second user of the network site;

(c) identifying a common browsing pattern of the first and second users;

(d) informing the users of the common browsing pattern;

A/ (e) providing to the first user of the network site capability to inform the network site of interest in co-browsing with the second user;

(f) providing to the second user of the network site capability to inform the network site of interest in co-browsing with the first user; and

(g) providing a capability for communication between the interested first and second users while they continue to shop on the network site.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the users with a window for interfacing with the network site, wherein the window comprises a first pane that displays information relating to items for sale and a second pane that displays content of the communication between the first and second user.

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3. The method of claim 1, wherein the capability for communication comprises a proxy server that protects identity of the users.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing the first user with capability to inform the network site of subject matter of interest to the user.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the second user is selected based on characteristics the second user shares with the first user.

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8. The method of claim 7, further comprising notifying the second user of the characteristics shared with the first user.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the characteristics include the subject matter of interest to the user.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the capability to inform the network site of interest in co-browsing comprises capability to inform the network site of conditions required for co-browsing.

11. (Amended) An apparatus for providing co-browsing by users shopping over a network, comprising:

(a) an electronic commerce server connected to the network for offering items for sale; and

(b) a co-browsing facility, provided by the electronic commerce server, that allows a first user that is browsing the items for sale to conditionally know whether a second user is also browsing the items for sale and then provides a communication medium for a conversation between the first and second users via the electronic commerce server while the first and second users both continue to browse the items for sale on the network site, wherein the electronic commerce server is capable of monitoring the browsing pattern of at least one of the first or second users, and wherein the electronic commerce server is further capable of identifying at least two users of a common browsing pattern and informing the at least two users of the common browsing pattern.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the co-browsing facility comprises a window for interfacing with the network site, wherein the window comprises a first pane that displays information relating to items for sale and a second pane that displays content of the communication between the first and second user.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the communication medium comprises a proxy server that protects identity of the users.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the electronic commerce server provides the first user with capability to inform the server of subject matter of interest to the user.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the second user is selected based on characteristics the second user shares with the first user.

18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the server notifies the second user of the characteristics shared with the first user.

19. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the characteristics include the subject matter of interest to the user.

20. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the co-browsing facility comprises capability to inform the network site of conditions required for co-browsing.

21. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for:

(a) providing a network site offering items for sale;

(b) monitoring the browsing patterns of a first user of the network site and of a second user of the network site;

(c) identifying a common browsing pattern of the first and second users;

(d) informing the users of the common browsing pattern;

(e) providing to the first user of the network site capability to inform the network site of interest in co-browsing with the second user;

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G3 (f) providing to the second user of the network site capability to inform the network site of interest in co-browsing with the first user; and

(g) providing a capability for communication between the interested first and second users while they continue to shop on the network site.

22. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises providing the users with a window for interfacing with the network site, wherein the window comprises a first pane that displays information relating to items for sale and a second pane that displays content of the communication between the first and second user.

23. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the capability for communication comprises a proxy server that protects identity of the users.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the method further comprises providing the first user with capability to inform the network site of subject matter of interest to the user.

27. The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein the second user is selected based on characteristics the second user shares with the first user.

28. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the method further comprises
AH notifying the second user of the characteristics shared with the first user.

29. The article of manufacture of claim 27, wherein the characteristics include the subject matter of interest to the user.

30. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the capability to inform the network site of interest in co-browsing comprises capability to inform the network site of conditions required for co-browsing.
